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THE

NATURAL HISTORY

OF

BEASTS,

Which are to be met with

In the FOUR Quarters of the GLOBE.

BY CHARLEY COLUMBUS.

EMBELLISHED WITH PICTURES.

THE *FIRST* WORCESTER EDITION.

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TO ALL

Good Little MASTERS and MISSES

IN THE

UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA.

CHARLEY COLUMBUS presents his respectful Compliments. Having by travelling and reading become acquainted with the Natural History of many of the most curious Beasts and Birds, which are to be met with in the world, he thought he could not gratify his young friends better, than by communicating this History to them, and presenting them with the likeness of each Beast and Bird; he has therefore published in this volume a particular description of Beasts; and is preparing that of Birds, which will speedily be ready to be presented to them if they continue to be good, and love Reading as well as play, and are obedient to their parents.

Wishing them every happiness, he remains

mains their ſure friend and humble ſervant.

CHARLEY COLUMBUS.

Worceſter, July, 1794.

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THE

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF FOURFOOTED BEASTS.

The RHINOCEROS, or UNICORN.

THE Rhinoceros is ſometimes called the Unicorn, from his having one horn only, growing out of his noſe, or

ſnout.

ſnout. He is nearly as big as an elephant, though his legs are ſomewhat ſhorter. The ſnout ſeems deſigned to turn up the earth, in order to find out the roots of plants. The eyes are ſmall, and placed forward on each ſide of the head, and it has large ears which ſtand erect. The whole animal is covered with a thick rough chapped ſkin, of an aſh colour, with plaits and folds in all ſuch parts as are neceſſary to allow the creature motion, falling one over another backwards.

The tail has a few black hairs at the end, and there are alſo a few ſcattering hairs on the ears; but on the other parts there are none. The back is hollow, and the belly ſinks down pretty much. The feet are round behind, and the hoofs are forward, which are divided into three parts on each foot; but they have two little hoofs on the hinder part of the foot as we ſee in cows, deer, and ſheep.

He rolls himſelf in the dirt like a hog, and the old ones are ſo ſtrong they will toſs up a large bull, as was ſeen in the amphitheatre at Rome.

Rhinoceroſes

Rhinoceroſes are chiefly to be met with in the Eaſt Indies; there is another kind with two horns, which are natives of Africa; and may be ſeen in plenty at the Cape of Good Hope.

When he purſues his prey, he always runs in a right line, overturning whatever lies in his way, for ſcarce any thing will ſtop his progreſs, or make him turn aſide. With the horn on his noſe he roots up trees, and lifts up the ſtones which oppoſe his paſſage, caſting them at a great diſtance behind him.

He very rarely attacks mankind, unleſs provoked, or meets a perſon with a red garment. When he attacks a man, he lays hold of the middle of his body, and throws him over his head with ſuch force, that he is almoſt always killed, with the fall; this done, he comes and licks him, and his tongue is ſo rough and hard, that it brings off the fleſh from the bones. He likewiſe ſerves other animals in the ſame manner after he has killed them. When he is ſeen running along it is pretty eaſy to avoid him, becauſe he cannot turn about very readily.

The

The ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is the largeſt four footed animal in the world. The forehead is large, and the ears very long. The eyes

eyes are small, and the proboſis, or trunk, which leſſons gradually from the head towards the extremity, has two holes or noſtrils at the end. It can ſhorten or lengthen this trunk at pleaſure, and this inſtrument ſerves in the place of hands.

The body is round, and the back riſes in an arch; the feet are round at the bottom, and do not ſeem to ſpread greatly beyond the bulk of the legs. The tail is like that of a hog, and the ſkin is horny and rough.

In the Eaſt Indies there are white elephants, and in the iſland of Ceylon there are ſome that are ſpotted, which perhaps are not to be met with in any other country. They all delight to live in the warm countries, though when they are brought into northern climates they thrive very well, which perhaps is owing to their being kept in ſtables, unexpoſed to the cold air.

The hide of an elephant is without hair. The female is much leſs than the male, and the udder is between the fore legs. Their uſual food is graſs, heath,

roots,

roots, and the ſhoots of young ſhrubs, and buſhes.

The tuſks of an elephant, of which our ivory utenſils are chiefly made, grow to a prodigious ſize, being frequently eight feet long, and weigh upwards of one hundred and fifty pounds.

Hiſtory informs us, that elephants were uſed in war by the ancients; and ſo they are at this day by ſeveral of the Indian princes; when they are well taught they make great havock in the field of battle, but when once put into diſorder, they oftentimes prove more fatal to their owners than the enemy. They formerly uſed to place a fort of tower on their backs, which held about ſix fighting men, who threw darts at the enemy. Their way of drinking is to ſuck up water with their trunks, and then convey it into their mouths. They are ſaid to live to a great age, to even two or three hundred years, but upon what ground this conjecture is founded is uncertain. However, it may ſafely be affirmed, that they live at leaſt one hundred

dred and twenty, or one hundred and thirty years.

The LION.

THERE are great numbers of Lions to be found in Asia and Africa, but there are none in America, whatever has been said to the contrary.

All the members of a Lion in general express the strength of his body. At the Cape of Good Hope in 1707, a Lion was known

known to carry off an ox of a moderate size, which is one instance of its prodigious strength. He has also a very majestic gait, with a noble air; likely sparkling eyes, with dreadful paws, and his steady pace cannot but excite the attention of the beholder; to which the largeness of his mane does not a little contribute. The bones are not solid as some have pretended, for there is marrow in them, though not so much in proportion as in many other animals.

All his motions are impetuous and his desires vehement, he is however frequently found to dispise a weak enemy, and disregard his provocations, as if he reserved his forces only for the hour of danger. When young, he is kind, and even caressing; but as he grows older, his passions become more fierce, and when enraged, he spreads terrour and destruction wherever he goes. But for all this, it cannot be said that this animal is naturally cruel, as necessity alone prompts him to carnage; he never kills more than he has immediate occasion for; and when satisfied, he becomes gentle

and

and harmleſs. When he meets with his prey, he takes it by a bound, and never begins to devour it till it be quite dead.

When a Lion is in anger, or oppreſſed by hunger, he erects his mane, and beats his ſides with his tail. On theſe occaſions, if he meets with any man, it is certain death. Sometimes he hides himſelf behind buſhes, ſo that a paſſenger can ſee nothing of him but the motion of his tail, when he is too near to eſcape from him. But when there is no motion of his mane or tail, he will often let a man paſs by him quietly. When a horſe or an ox are aware of a Lion, they run away as faſt as they can; and if the horſe has a man on his back, he endeavours to throw him off, that he may fly the ſwifter. Likewiſe when a horſeman diſcovers a lion, his beſt way is to alight as ſoon as he can; becauſe he is generally contented with the horſe, and will let the man eſcape.

The Lioneſs differs from the Lion only in having no long hairs about the neck, and the head being rather flatter, and the claws not quite ſo large.

The

The TYGER.

IT is a very fierce and miſchievous animal. The ſavages are very dexterous in encountering them with a ſpontoon, or half pike, their uſual weapon on a journey. The Tyger is ſuppoſed to be the only animal that dares engage with a crocadile. The crocadile raiſes his head above water to ſeize the Tyger when he comes to the river ſide to drink,

as

as he does cows, horses, mules, and other animals on the like occasion. When this happens, the Tyger plunges his claws into the eyes of the crocadile, the only part where he can hurt him, on account of the hardness of his scales; and the latter diving under water, drags the Tyger along with him, who will sooner die than let go his hold.

The Tyger is full of yellow spots encompassed with black hair, in the shape of a horse shoe. Those that have eaten the flesh of a Tyger affirm, that it is white, tender, and well tasted.

The